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I have the high privilege of presenting to you for the degree of Doctor of Laws the Honourable Elihu Root, formerly Secretary of War, Secretary of State, Senator of the United States, and to-day one of the greatest Americans of his time.

It is unnecessary to recount to you the details of the career through which Mr. Root has attained with distinguished success at every step his present outstanding position in the world. Suffice it to say, he is recognized by his fellow-countrymen as having performed his duty in the spirit of the following incident. Mr. Root tells us in 1915 that "sixteen years ago, in the month of July having just finished the labours of the year and gone to my country home, I was

called to the telephone and told by one speaking for President McKinley, "The President directs me to say to you that he wishes you to take the position of Secretary of War". I answered, "Thank the President for me, but say that it is quite absurd, I know nothing about war. I know nothing about the Army." I was told to hold the wire, and in a moment there came back the reply, "President McKinley directs me to say that he is not looking for anyone who knows anything about war or for anyone who knows anything about the army; he has got to have a lawyer to direct the government of these Spanish islands, and you are the lawyer he wants." Of course, I had then, on the instant, to determine what kind of a lawyer I wished to be, and there

was but one answer to make, and so I went to perform a lawyer's duty upon the call of the greatest of all our clients, the government of our country."

In history Mr. Root will be remembered with especial regard by both branches of the English-speaking race for the compelling power with which almost from the beginning he placed before his fellow countrymen the issues of the present war by addresses which for masterful reasoning and prophetic eloquence will remain among the American classics. He saw at the moment that the texture of ordered society and international law was being slashed irretrievably by the sword of

the Teutons.

"If the nations were to be indifferent to the first great concrete case for a century of military power trampling underfoot at will the independence, the liberty and the life of a peaceful and unoffending people in repudiation of the faith of treaties and the law of nations and of morality and of humanity - if the public opinion of the world was to remain silent upon that, neutral upon that, then all talk about peace and justice and international law and the rights of man, thd progress of humanity and the spread of liberty is idle patter ..... There come times in the lives of nations as of men when to treat wrong as if it were right is treason

to the right."

His latest triumph was in the fulfilment of his function as Ambassador Extraordinary and leader of the Special Diplomatic Mission of the United States of America to Russia in 1917. To the people of Russia he said "You do not walk alone upon the pathway of self-government; we have faith in the triumph and perpetuity of Russian freedom." He returned optimistic as to Russia convinced that the kindliness of the people, their capacity for self-control, their extraordinary ability for united action and their noble idealism ~~will~~ would lead in the better way towards higher things. If as we are beginning to hope the true Russia is reasserting herself, not a little

of the credit will be due to the tact and faith which Mr. Root has consistently displayed towards her in her time of deep agony.

I have said more than enough, but to an academic audience one further word will be an additional justification for his receiving this degree. Mr. Root is a true and loyal university man, one of the wisest counsellors ~~for~~ of his old College of Hamilton, New York, as well as ~~for~~ of foundations which promote the welfare of a continent-wide constituency.

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April 6th, 1918

Hon. Elihu Root,

New York City.

My dear Sir:

I am writing to you in New York at a venture, as I wrote to you about ten days ago to Washington, where I was informed my letter would be most likely to find you. As I have had no answer, hope I must have been misinformed.

The Senate of the University of Toronto is very anxious that you should come to Toronto and accept our honorary degree of Doctor of Laws at the spring convocation on Friday, May 17th. We wish to signalize this commencement by giving the degree to yourself as representing the United States and also to the Earl of Reading, the British Ambassador at Washington. We believe that national significance would be attached by our people in Canada to the bestowal of such a degree upon you at this time, and I may assure you that if you can find it possible to be with us you will be very cordially welcomed not only on your own behalf but as the representative of our great ally and neighbor.

Would you be kind enough to let me know at your earliest convenience whether we may expect to have you ?

Yours sincerely,

President.

T. W. No. 1

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Z. A. LASH, President. HEAD OFFICE: TORONTO. GEO. D. PERRY, General Manager.

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President Robert A Falconer University of Toronto

Am writing you acceptance kind acceptance kind invitation

for May seventeenth

Elhu Root

April 24th, 1918

The Honourable Elihu Root,

998 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Dear Mr. Root:

I regret very much that I was unable to get a suitable time while I was in New York to call upon you. There was no special reason for my doing so except to give myself the privilege of paying my respects to you and speaking about your forthcoming visit to Toronto.

Since returning to Toronto I find a request from the President of the Canadian Club that I should endorse their invitation for you to address them on May 17th. The Canadian Club undoubtedly offers one of the best opportunities for a speaker to address the active men of the city of Toronto. They have in the past had a most distinguished list of speakers. The President has assured me that if you speak for them he will make arrangements to have you at the University in time for Convocation. I should say that I do not know what arrangements, if any, the Lieutenant-Governor has made for that day and I will suggest to the President of the Canadian Club that he should consult the Governor on the matter.

With much respect, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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31 NASSAU STREET
NEW YORK

May 2'1918.

My dear Dr. Falconer,

I have arranged to leave by the New York Central train at 6.45 on Thursday May 16th, and should arrive in Toronto at 9.23 a.m. on the 17th.

I have accepted the invitation of The Canadian Club to lunch with them at 12.30, expecting to be through with the luncheon in time to join the procession at the University by 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

I have also accepted the kind invita-

tion of the Governor to be a guest at Government House, and I have written to Lt. Col. Alexander Fraser that for my return I shall be obliged to take the train which leaves Toronto 8.20 Saturday morning the 18th.

With kind regards,

I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Wilfrid Laurier

Dr. Robt. A. Falconer,
President,
University of Toronto.